

Message Text

SECRET

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TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 17, 1977
(SALT TWO - 1229)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR EARLE
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JUNE 17, 1977.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE, JUNE 17, 1977

MR. MINISTER:

TODAY I SHALL DISCUSS THE LIMITATIONS ON LIGHT AND
HEAVY ICBMS AND, IN PARTICULAR, LIMITATIONS ON THE LAUNCH-
WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT OF THESE ICBMS. WE HAVE REACHED
AGREEMENT ON FORMULATIONS IN THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT FOR
PARAGRAPH 7 OF ARTICLE II, PARAGRAPHS 3, 4 AND 7 OF
ARTICLE IV, AND THE ASSOCIATED AGREED STATEMENTS AND
COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS. THESE FORMULATIONS PROVIDE,
AMONG OTHER THINGS, A SOUND FRAMEWORK FOR LAUNCH-WEIGHT
AND THROW-WEIGHT CEILINGS. HOWEVER, THERE REMAINS AN
ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY WITH RESPECT TO THESE CEILINGS.

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THE UNITED STATES IS MINDFUL OF THE SOVIET POSITION
THAT THE AGREED FORMULATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH LAUNCH-
WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT LIMITS ARE "ADEQUATE AND DEFINITE."
SINCE SOVIET ICBMS ARE TO BE USED FOR SETTING THE CRITERIA
FOR UPPER LIMITS ON LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT OF BOTH
LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THERE

IS NO UNCERTAINTY ON THE SOVIET SIDE. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON FINITE NUMERICAL VALUES, THERE WOULD REMAIN UNCERTAINTY ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THESE VALUES. THEREFORE, IN THE PLANNING AND FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF MODERNIZATION AND REPLACEMENT OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS AND IN THE MONITORING OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT MISUNDERSTANDING WOULD EXIST.

IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 1976 THAT AN AGREED STATEMENT BE WORKED OUT, WHICH WOULD RECORD NUMERICAL VALUES FOR THE CEILINGS ON THE LAUNCH-WEIGHT AND THROW-WEIGHT OF LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THERE IS A NEED FOR THESE VALUES. THERE IS PRECEDENT IN THE ABM TREATY FOR MEETING SUCH A REQUIREMENT, AS EVIDENCED BY THE AGREED STATEMENT WHEREIN THE TWO SIDES RECORDED THE NUMERICAL VALUE OF THE POTENTIAL OF A PARTICULAR ABM RADAR.

MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THIS IS AN ISSUE ON WHICH PROGRESS CAN BE MADE PROMPTLY, TO THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF THE SIDES.EARLE

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